

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 09503 171558Z

43

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-10 OIC-04

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, PINS, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - ICAO EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY/DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE

REF: LONDON 9341

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING ROME MEETINGS WITH CAPTAIN STICKLAND, ACTING CHAIRMAN BRITISH AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION (BALPA) ON AUG. 17. STICKLAND SAID BALPA FULLY BEHIND UK/SWISS PROPOSAL AS LONG-TERM RESPONSE TO AIR SECURITY PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE SAID, BALPA ALSO RECOGNIZES NEED FOR NEW, INDEPENDENT CONVENTION AS INTERIM MEASURE THAT COULD ENTER INTO FORCE IN REASONABLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM WHILE AWAITING RATIFICATIONS NEEDED FOR US/SWISS AMENDMENTS TO CHICAGO CONVENTION. BALPA, THEREFORE, ALSO SUPPORTS ADOPTION OF NORDIC CONVENTION PROPOSAL AS AMENDED BY US. STICKLAND SAID BALPA REGARDED CREATION OF INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF EXPERTS WITH MANDATORY FUNCTION OF INVESTIGATING ACTIONS BELIEVED CONTRARY TO HAGUE AND MONTREAL PRINCIPLES, AS PROPOSED BY US, TO BE ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ACCEPTABILITY OF NORDIC-PROPOSED CONVENTION. IN EFFECT, BALPA VIEWS ON ROME MEETINGS APPEAR TO BE IDENTICAL WITH THAT OF USG.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 09503 171558Z

2. STICKLAND SAID UKG MAY HAVE CONVEYED TO US IMPRESSION THAT BALPA ONLY CONCERNED WITH LONG-TERM SOLUTION TO HIJACKING PROBLEM. THIS, HE SAID, WAS NEVER A COMPLETELY ACCURATE REPRESENTATION OF BALPA POSITION AND NOW, IN LIGHT OF RECENT SERIES OF INCIDENTS, IT IS QUITE UNTRUE. BALPA NOW STRONGLY SUPPORTS TWO-STAGE APPROACH TO PROBLEM AND WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO BRING UKG AROUND TO ITS VIEW. TOWARD THIS END, STICKLAND WILL MEET WITH DAVID HUBBACK, DEPUTY SECRETARY, DTI, ON AUGUST 21 AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH MINISTER AEROSPACE AND SHIPPING MICHAEL HESELTINE AT TIME YET TO BE SPECIFIED. STICKLAND FAIRLY HOPEFUL BALPA WILL BE ABLE BRING UKG AROUND TO ACCEPT BALPA POSITION.

3. STICKLAND SAID HE UNDERSTANDS IFALPA HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION IDEA OF 24-HOUR "BLACKING" OF AIR SERVICES TO ISRAEL AT OUTSET OF ROME MEETINGS. SUCH ACTION, HE SAID, WOULD SERVE TO REGISTER PILOTS CONCERN OVER INCIDENT INVOLVING DIVERSION LEBANESE AIRLINER AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, TO DEMONSTRATE TO GOVERNMENTS MEETING IN ROME THE KIND OF INDEPENDENT ACTION THEY MAY BE FACED WITH IF THEY DO NOT COPE ADEQUATELY WITH THE AIR SECURITY PROBLEM.

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